

The present invention will cause a speaker in said portable computer to emit a sound which serves as an alarm. In the preferred embodiment, the authorized user may set the volume of said speaker to its maximum or the authorized user may select some other volume or sound. In the preferred embodiment, the authorized user may also select a password for deactivating the program segment, specifically said program segment which causes said speaker to emit said alarm. The authorized user may also select passwords or hot-key sequences or both, said passwords being used for activating or deactivating the instruction segment, specifically, said program segment which causes said speaker to emit said alarm. The password for activating the instruction segment may be different from the password for deactivating the program segment. The hot-key sequence for activating the instruction segment may be different from the hot-key sequence for deactivating the instruction segment. The authorized user may activate the program segment with a password and deactivate the program segment with a hot-key sequence or vice-versa.

An alternative embodiment differs from the above-described embodiment only in that this alternative embodiment allows the present invention to be implemented on a portable computer which does not employ an interrupt to indicate said cover is foldably closed against said main computer body. In the alternative embodiment, the present invention polls the register or status location which is changed when the cover is foldably closed against the main computer body. In said alternative embodiment there is no interrupt trapping so, in this embodiment, there is nothing to be done at boot time. The program segment must be started by the operating system or the authorized user.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for causing a speaker to sound an audible alarm in a portable computer having a cover, a main computer body, a hinge between said cover and said body, and an interrupt vector, said method comprising:

- a) detecting foldable closing of said cover relative to said body;
 - b) causing an interrupt to occur within said portable computer;
 - c) said interrupt causing branching control to a fixed address in said interrupt vector following said detecting; and
 - d) generating said audible alarm from said speaker following said interrupt;
- and further comprising: detecting whether said speaker is enabled; and detecting whether said alarm is activated by an authorized user.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein a computer designer assigns said fixed address in said detection of said foldable closing of said cover to said body.

3. The method according to claim 2, said fixed address in said interrupt vector comprising an original address for branching control of said portable computer upon occurrence of said interrupt upon detection of said foldable closing of said cover to said body.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising a first instruction segment at said original address contained in said fixed address in said interrupt vector, control branching to said instruction segment of said portable computer upon detecting said foldable closing of said cover to said body.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising a second instruction segment.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said second instruction segment is located at a second address.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said second instruction segment causes said speaker to generate said audible alarm.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising trapping said interrupt caused by said foldable closing of said cover of said portable computer.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said trapping occurs at boot time.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said interrupt is trapped by resetting said original address in said interrupt vector to an indirect address of said second address of said second instruction segment.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said detecting of said foldable closing of said cover occurs subsequent to boot time.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein a volume for said alarm is set by said authorized user.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said authorized user may deactivate said alarm.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of passwords for deactivating said alarm.

15. The method according to claim 13, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of hot-keys for deactivating said alarm.

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein said authorized user may activate said alarm.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of passwords for activating said alarm.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of hot-keys for activating said alarm.

19. A method for causing a speaker to sound an audible alarm in a portable computer having a cover, a main computer body, a hinge between said cover and said main computer body, a status location indicating foldable closing of said cover against said body, and an instruction segment, said method comprising:

- a) polling said status location to detect said foldable closing of said cover against said main computer body;
- b) causing execution of said instruction segment following detection of said status location indicating said foldable closing of said cover against said main computer body;
- c) said instruction segment generating said audible alarm; and further comprising: detecting whether said speaker is enabled; and detecting whether said alarm is activated by an authorized user.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein a volume for said alarm is set by said authorized user.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said authorized user may deactivate said alarm.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of passwords for deactivating said alarm.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of hot-keys for deactivating said alarm.

24. The method according to claim 20, wherein said authorized user may activate said alarm.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of passwords for activating said alarm.

26. The method according to claim 24, wherein said authorized user may select one of a plurality of hot-keys for activating said alarm.